

## Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 IO-13 SSM-03 OMB-01 ACDA-12 /086 W  
-----104164 201016Z /15

R 200753Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9752  
INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
AMEMBASSY AMMAN  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY DAMSCUS  
/AMEMBASSY DOHA 1631  
AMEMBASSY JIDDA  
AMEMBASSY MANAMA  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV  
USINT BAGHDAD POUCH  
AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: XF, EG  
SUBJECT: KUWAIT FON MIN ON SADAT'S GOALS AND GULF STATE SOLIDARITY

1. KUWAIT FON MIN SHEIKH SABAH AL-AHMAD GAVE AN UNUSUALLY  
FRANK INTERVIEW, PUBLISHED DEC. 19, TO LOCAL DAILY AL-SIYASAH,  
REGARDING THE KUWAITI VIEW OF CURRENT MIDDLE EAST EVENTS.  
HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

A. SAUDI ARABI AND THE GULF STATE ARE CONSCIOUSLY  
AVOIDING POSITIONS ON INTRA-ARAB ISSUES (ARISING FROM  
SADAT'S TRIP TO ISRAEL) WHICH WOULD LATER DISQUALIFY THESE  
STATES FROM ACTING AS MEDIATORS OF THESE SAME ISSUES.  
COORDINATION ON THIS COMMON SAUDI-GULF POSTURE IS "FUNCTIONING  
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WELL" AND THE GULF STATE BELIEVE THAT THEY WILL IN FACT  
BE IN A POSITION TO MEDIATE BETWEEN FELLOW ARABS, SINCE  
"THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SADAT AND HIS CRITICS ARE  
DIFFERENCES OF TACTICS RATHER THAN PURPOSE."

B. THE GULF STATE POSTURE ALLOWS THESE STATES  
TO BEST PROTECT "NATIONAL INTERESTS," AS WELL AS ARAB

UNITY, SINCE THE PACE OF DEVELOPMENTS AFFECTING CRUCIAL MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS IS TOO RAPID NOW TO PERMIT GULF LEADERS TO PREDICT HOW THE PROBLEMS MIGHT COME OUT.

C. THE GULF STATES HAVE SHOWN THAT THEY ARE CAPABLE OF MAINTAINING A "METICULOUS BALANCE" IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUES, PART OF A BROADER POLICY OF AVOIDING "INTERNATIONAL RISKS" BY FORBEARING TO "TROUBLE THE WORLD", AND THUS AVOIDING THE ENMITY OF OTHERS.

2. COMMENT: GULF COUNTRIES DO SEEM TO BE REACTING PUBLICLY IN REMARKABLY SIMILAR FASHIONS IN RESPONSE TO EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DEVELOPMENTS, A RESULT REFLECTING ACTIVE COORDINATION AS WELL AS COMMON INTERESTS. (PRESS REPORTS INDICATE THAT THE KUWAITI FOMIN WILL GO TO RIYADH DEC. 20 CONSULT WITH HIS SAUDI COUNTERPART.) THE KUWAITI FOMIN'S DESCRIPTION OF SAUDI AND OTHER GULF STATES' POLICIES OR RETICENCE AND "BALANCE" IN THE FACE OF SADAT'S EFFORTS MAY NOT BE FULLY ACCURATE AS TO ALL, BUT IT DOES SEEM TO HIT THE MARK FOR KUWAIT. WHAT IS MOST INTERESTING, HOWEVER, IN THE FOMIN'S REPORTED REMARKS IS HIS PUBLIC ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT SADAT'S PURPOSES ARE THE SAME AS THOSE OF HIS CRITICS. THIS IS THE FIRST PUBLIC EXPRESSION OF BELIEF BY A KUWAITI OFFICIAL THAT SADAT HAS THE RIGHT GOALS IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MIND IN HIS RAPPROACHMENT WITH ISRAEL. PREVIOUS GOK STATEMENTS HAD MERELY REFRAINED FROM CRITICIZING SADAT, WHILE EXPRESSING CONCERN FOR ARAB UNITY. WE SEE HERE ALSO IMPLICIT REJECTION OF THIRD PARTY CHARGES THAT SADAT IS BENT ON A SEPARATE PEACE. THIS CONCURS WITH OUR OWN SOUNDINGS OF KUWAITI OPINION; KUWAITIS WISH SADAT WELL IN HIS LONELY GRAPPLING WITH ISRAEL AND THEY WANT TO BELIEVE THAT HE WILL REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE GOAL OF COMPREHENSIVE SETTLEMENT. SUTHERLAND

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## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS CONFERENCES, PEACE PLANS, POLITICAL SITUATION  
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**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770473-1017  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Subject:** KUWAIT FON MIN ON SADAT'S GOALS AND GULF STATE SOLIDARITY  
**TAGS:** SOPN, PDEV, XF, EG, (AL-AHMAD, SHEIKH SABAH)  
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**Review Markings:**  
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